IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-24 (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) An implant comprising:

a body with first and second ends and a plurality of through-holes extending between the ends;

a first and second cortical end cap disposed on each end of the body, the end caps comprising a plurality of receiving regions having a bearing surface at an end therein; and

a plurality of cortical struts;

wherein each cortical strut is disposed in one of the through holes of the body and mates in one of the receiving regions of each cap so that at least a portion of the struts bear against at least a portion of the bearing surface.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The implant of claim 24 ~~25~~, wherein the cortical strut received in the receiving region ~~through hole~~ of the cap is press-fit therein.

28. (Currently Amended) The implant of claim 24, wherein at least one of the receiving regions comprises a recess that does not extend completely through the end cap.

29. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 24, wherein the implant comprises demineralized bone.

30. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 24, wherein the implant comprises partially demineralized bone.

31. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 24, wherein the body comprises osteoconductive material.

32. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 24, wherein the body comprises cancellous bone.

33. (Currently Amended) The implant of claim 24, wherein the body comprises cancellous bone and the receiving regions comprise a recess that does not extend completely through the end cap.

34. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 24, wherein the struts are disposed generally parallel to each other.

35. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 24, wherein the struts are cylindrical.

36. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 24, wherein the struts have a triangular cross-section.

37. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 24, wherein the struts have a rectangular cross-section.

38. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 24, wherein the body is cylindrical.

39. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 24, wherein the end caps are configured and dimensioned to distribute loading on the implant.

40. (New) The implant of claim 39, wherein the cortical struts are sized and configured to serve as load-bearing members.

41. (New) An implant sized and configured for placement between adjacent vertebral bodies, the implant comprising:

a first cortical end cap having a top surface for engaging a vertebral body, a bottom surface and a receiving region disposed therebetween;

a second cortical end cap having a top surface for engaging a vertebral body, a bottom surface, and a receiving region disposed therebetween;

a cancellous body having a first end for engaging the bottom surface of the first cortical end cap, a second end for engaging the bottom surface of the second cortical end cap, and at least one through-hole extending therebetween;

at least one cortical strut disposed in the at least one through hole formed in the body and in the at least one receiving region formed in the first and second end caps;

wherein the end caps are sized and dimensioned to serve as load-distributing members and the at least one cortical strut is sized and configured to serve as a load-bearing member.

42. (New) The implant of claim 41, wherein the at least one receiving region formed in the end caps comprise a through hole.

43. (New) The implant of claim 42, wherein the cortical strut received in the through hole of the end caps is press-fit therein.

44. (New) The implant of claim 41, wherein the at least one receiving region formed in the end caps has a bearing surface at an end thereof.

45. (New) The implant of claim 41, wherein the at least one receiving region formed in the end caps comprise a recess that does not extend completely through the end cap.

46. (New) The implant of claim 41, wherein the implant comprises demineralized bone.

47. (New) The implant of claim 41, wherein the implant comprises partially demineralized bone.

48. (New) The implant of claim 41, wherein the struts are disposed generally parallel to each other.

49. (New) The implant of claim 41, wherein the struts are cylindrical.

50. (New) The implant of claim 41, wherein the struts have a triangular cross-section.

51. (New) The implant of claim 41, wherein the struts have a rectangular cross-section.

52. (New) The implant of claim 41, wherein the body is cylindrical.

53. (New) The implant of claim 41, wherein the implant comprises a plurality of through-holes formed in the body, a plurality of receiving regions formed in the end caps, and a plurality of cortical struts such that at least one of the receiving holes formed

in the end caps does not extend completely through the end cap so that the struts bear against an end surface of the end caps.